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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 003991

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [KNNP](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [TRGY](#) [IR](#) [SF](#) [IAEA](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION ON SEPTEMBER BOG:
COOPERATION WITH USG, BUT NO UNSC REFERRAL

REF: STATE 188960

Classified By: Ambassador Jendayi E. Frazer.

Reasons: 1.4 (b,d)

11. (C) Ambassador Frazer delivered reftel demarche and passed reftel nonpaper September 2 to Abdul Minty, South Africa's Governor on the IAEA Board of Governors (BOG) and Deputy Director General at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The ambassador emphasized that the USG believes the September 13-17 BOG meeting should adopt a strong resolution that reports Iran's noncompliance with IAEA resolutions, urges full Iranian cooperation with the IAEA, and refers the matter to the UNSC. She said that it's time to ratchet up the pressure on Iran, which has had almost two years to cooperate with the IAEA but has failed to do so.

12. (C) Minty said the South African government (SAG) wanted to cooperate with the USG on Iran but would not support UNSC referral. In Minty's view, pressing for referral would split the BOG and ensure no consensus. Minty also noted that the SAG disagreed with the USG on enrichment. Minty explained that South Africa wanted to preserve the enrichment option for itself, associated with the SAG's new pebble bed reactor. Minty noted, however, that he was prepared to engage with the USG, either in Vienna (his tentative arrival date is September 11) or in Washington (he attends a NEPAD event October 2-6).

13. Minty told the ambassador that the Iranians will send a delegation to Pretoria "at the end of September." The Iranians would meet with President Mbeki. More generally, Minty said that President Mbeki was concerned that the 2005 NPT Review Conference would be unsuccessful, and that "people will then walk away."

14. (C) Minty repeated several times that the SAG shared USG goals with regard to Iran and would continue to press Iran to comply fully with IAEA resolutions. He said he believes that there continue to be divisions within the Iranian government on the matter, with the Foreign Ministry the most internationally aware and forward-leaning. According to Minty, the new Iranian parliament "almost impeached" the Iranian Foreign Minister because the representatives saw him as overly ready to compromise with the West on IAEA matters.
FRAZER